Media Life

Course Overview
This course will explore the ways in which media, especially social media, are integrated into different aspects of our lives. We will focus on 4 primary topics: media and social movements, media and health, media and relationships, and media and identity. We will approach these areas through the sociotechnical approach that examines the relationship between the technical affordances of a website/technology and the social norms of a user community, and how to use this to understand emerging technologies. Students will also gain basic practical social media skills: understanding the landscape, learning “best practices,” and using different social media technologies throughout the class to create and propagate content.

Course Structure and Student Evaluations
Critical reading on social media 30 %
10 articles critique 20%
Final 70%

Key words: social media, social movements, health, relationships, identity, STS.